(c) people in general get information under right to information but replies to MPs letters are not received from ministries, rather a clicked reply is given which is mostly negative; and

(d) action being taken in this regard by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Manual of Office Procedure and the instructions issued from time to time contain guidelines for prompt response to communications from MPs which are followed by Government servants. Delays sometime occur when the matter involves consultations with other Departments or State Governments or when reports have to be obtained from the authorities responsible for taking necessary action.

(c) and (d) Under RTI Act, only information held in the custody of Public Information Officer is made available as per the provisions of the Act, whereas in the case of communications received from MPs efforts are made to answer queries, give details and explanation as sought in the letters.

Fulfilment of backlog of SCs/STs

†3162. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the backlog of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been fulfilled in all departments as per the directions given by Prime Minister;

(b) if not, by when it will be fulfilled;

(c) whether Prime Minister is aware of this situation; and

(d) the aciton taken against the officers for not fulfilling the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A Special Recruitment Drive was launched to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the year 2004. More than 60,000 backlog vacancies were filled during the Drive. Another Special Recruitment Drive to fill up the backlog vacancies of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes has been launched in 2008.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) If any officer does not implement the provisions of reservation, action against him can be taken under the Conduct Rules.

Special package to Bihar government

3163. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has, recently, praised Bihar State Government in regard to progress made in infrastructure, education, health sectors and economic growth in the past few years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.